United Nations A/62/99

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2007
English
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Sixty-second session
Item 100 (b) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/62/50.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/116 O of 15 December 1989, entitled "Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof", the relevant operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report by 1992, and every three years thereafter until the fourth Review Conference is convened, on technological developments relevant to the Treaty and to the verification of compliance with the Treaty, including dual-purpose technologies for peaceful and specified military ends; in carrying out this task he should draw from official sources and from contributions by States parties to the Treaty and may use the assistance of appropriate expertise;
>
> "9. *Urges* all States parties to the Treaty to assist the Secretary-General accordingly by providing information and drawing his attenti n to suitable sources."

2. Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 9 of the resolution, a note verbale was sent to States parties to the Treaty inviting them to provide information on the subject. Replies have been received from Lebanon and Mexico, which are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies received from States parties will be issued as addenda to the present report.

3. The Secretary-General wishes to point out that the information submitted to him by States parties to the Treaty does not provide sufficient official material for him to report on the subject matter on the basis indicated in paragraph 8 of the resolution.

II. Information received from Governments

A. Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[1 May 2007]

The Ministry of National Defence states that Lebanon affirms once again that it does not possess, manufacture or stockpile weapons of mass destruction and reaffirms its commitment to the related United Nations resolutions. Consequently, it has no weapons of mass destruction that might be placed on the seabed or the ocean floor.

B. Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[22 May 2007]

1. Mexico encourages the elimination of all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and in that connection supports international efforts aimed at preventing the emplacement of such weapons on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof.

2. As a State party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, Mexico encourages the full observance of the Treaty's provisions and consequently the adoption of measures that make possible greater advances aimed at ensuring compliance with the Treaty, in keeping with Mexico's position and the fact that it is legally bound by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

3. Mexico considers that a fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof would make possible a thorough examination of technological advances that affect compliance with and the monitoring of that international legal instrument, together with other aspects of great importance, such as the relationship of the Treaty with the regimes of nuclear-weapon-free zones and with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea itself. It would therefore be important for there to be a mechanism to permit greater interaction with regard to such information and to study the conditions and possibilities for holding a fourth Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.

4. In the area of nuclear monitoring, Mexico contributes to the work of the International Monitoring System of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which, using modern telecommunications and data-management techniques, observes phenomena throughout the world and collects data that might indicate the possibility of a nuclear test. Mexico does so by means of five monitoring stations, one of which is hydroacoustic station HA06, located on Socorro Island, which helps detect acoustic waves produced in the oceans by both natural and artificial phenomena. The station is certified and fully operative, sending data to the International Data Centre in Vienna.

5. Within this context, it would be important to examine the performance and characteristics of existing international monitoring mechanisms with a view to identifying their specific qualities that might be proposed in respect of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof.

6. Until such time as a fourth Conference of the Parties to the Treaty is convened, presentations by experts and informative sessions within the framework of the interactive debate within the United Nations General Assembly on technologies related to the Treaty might be sponsored by States parties, scientific and disarmament research institutions or international organizations dealing with such matters.